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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Re: Docket# 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to request that you do the compassionate thing and help to at least partially alleviate farm animal suffering by granting Farm Sanctuary's petition to prohibit the slaughter for human food consumption of downed animals.

It is close to impossible to move a downed animal--whether to stockyard or slaughterhouse--without injury and, subsequently, even more suffering unless it is at first euthanized.

For various reasons--mostly financial--a downed animal often does not receive veterinary care or other necessary aid. Such an animal may lie immobilized for hours or days, maybe under a hot sun or in adverse weather conditions, unable to get to food or water, eventually dying a miserable death or suffering even more when dragged or pushed with a tractor or forklift to slaughter.

Although some states, including mine, California, have passed laws specifically banning stockyards from accepting downed animals, violations occur all too frequently. Stockyards with "no downer" policies are caught with neglected, downed animals on the premises. The livestock industry is doing a lousy job of policing itself. By removing the market, and therefore the profit motive, for downed animals, you will also provide an incentive for the industry to provide better care of its animals, i.e., in the first place, working towards preventing the conditions that create a downed animal, and, in the second place, humanely euthanizing an animal that is down.

We humans have a deplorable record when it comes to the humane treatment of our fellow creatures. We can try to do the things that will make this world a better place for all of us animals, or, number two, we can go on our self-centered "let-me-get-mine way" regardless of the resulting pain and misery. Let's try to make this a better world.

Please keep me advised as to what position you are taking on this matter.

Sincerely,

Marian Carter

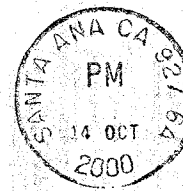
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